

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8822

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJECT: TABULATION OF GATT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

1. CHAIRMAN OF GATT BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS DUNKEL (SWITZERLAND) HAS PROPOSED ASK GATT SECRETARIAT TO TABULATE ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE OVER PAST 15 YEARS IN SIMPLE FACTUAL PICTURE OF WHERE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN. COMPILATION WOULD BE LIMITED TO LISTS OF COUNTRIES HAVING APPEARED, WHICH HAVE INVOKED OR DISINVOKED ARTICLES XII OR XVIII, ATTENDANCE RECORD OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, REVIEW OF KINDS OF CONCLUSIONS ARRIVED AT BY COMMITTEE, ETC. PAPER WOULD BE DRAFT ONLY, WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEE FOR ITS INFORMATION IN 1975. US (SPRUCE) SAID SINCE SURVEY WAS TO BE SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEE IN DRAFT FORM, WE SAW NO OBJECTION. US SAID WE WOULD, HOWEVER, WISH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO WHAT COMMITTEE MIGHT LATER DO WITH DRAFT. ALL OTHER MEMBERS TOOK SIMILAR POSITIONS ON BOTH COUNTS, EXCEPT THAT EC NOW CHECKING WITH MEMBER STATES TO SEE IF THERE ANY OBJECTION TO SECRETARIAT'S DOING DRAFT.

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2. US, JAPAN ASKED WHAT ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF EXERCISE

MIGHT BE. DUNKEL SAID FOR NOW PROPOSAL WAS LIMITED TO COMPLETING DRAFT. LATER, IF COMMITTEE WISHED, IT MAY WISH ASK ITSELF QUESTIONS AS WHETHER ITS ACTIVITIES USEFUL, WHAT WEAKNESSES ARE, WHETHER COMMITTEE IS ISOLATED FROM LARGER GATT QUESTIONS AFFECTING BOP, AND WHETHER COMMITTEE'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL SHOULD CONTAIN BROADER SUGGESTIONS. WE SAID WHILE OF COURSE WE NOT IN POSITION TO COMMENT ON THESE CONSIDERATIONS, COMMITTEE WOULD WISH BE CAREFUL NOT TO WORK AT CROSS-PURPOSES WITH MTN.

3. COMMENT: DUNKEL TOLD US HE FEELS BOP COMMITTEE BECOMING INCREASINGLY STERILE. HE HAS BEEN DISTURBED THAT BOP MEASURES OTHER THAN QRS TEND BE HANDLED OUTSIDE COMMITTEE AND BELIEVES THIS PRACTICE WEAKENS EFFECTIVENESS OF GATT IN DISCOURAGING NEW RESTRICTIONS. MISSION WILL SUBMIT FURTHER COMMENTS WHEN DRAFT TABULATION RECEIVED. ABRAMS

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